

Stone Age Flint Artefacts Pack

WARNING: The items contained within this pack are made of real flint and are extremely sharp – Only use under adult supervision and handle with caution. Not suitable for children under 7 years of age.

Explain to the Children that these objects are sharp and can cut you if you are not careful. They can break if dropped on the floor and should not be gripped too tightly when held. Do not snatch from others – handle and pass on with care. You could place each item inside small plastic bags before passing around to afford some protection.

Flint tools were a staple of Stone Age life and this high quality, authentic, flint artefacts pack will transport your class back 10,000 years. All of these flint replicas have been made by hand using traditional flint 'knapping' techniques, as would have been utilised during the Stone Age. Flint knapping is a process whereby the item which is to be made into a tool is worked using a fabricator such as a hammer stone to remove flakes from the core tool. The tool can then be further refined using a variety of items such as wood, bone or antler tools to create the finish required. The items within this pack have all been made using these techniques and consequently are as authentic as is possible.



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Pack contains:

1) Arrow Heads



The collection of arrowheads found in this pack demonstrate the difference in size they could have been, from large to very small. It's believed that Stone Age man would have used a different arrow head size depending on what animal they were hunting, for example, a large boar would require a large arrowhead, but a small rodent would need smaller weaponry. An arrowhead is a tip, sharpened and added to a wooden shaft fitted with feather flights to fulfil some special purpose. The earliest arrowheads were made of stone and of organic materials. Evidence of arrow head projectile points have been found dating back to 64,000 years ago, although it is believed they would have been used earlier than this.

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1) Large and Small Neolithic Knives



The large and small Neolithic knives in this pack are based on knives found dating back 6,000 years. The large knife would have likely been used to cut up large pieces of meat for cooking, or for hacking at undergrowth for making shelter. The smaller knife would likely have been used for more intricate work, such as needlework or early clothes tailoring. The large knife may have been mounted within a large wooden handle for ease of use, however, the wood would have decayed long ago, so it is impossible to say for sure.

2) Axe Head



The axe head found within this pack has been flint-knapped into a shape which would have made it appropriate for hunting, preparing food and many other versatile tasks, such as clearing woodland to make room for farming space during the Neolithic period. It's likely that the axe head in Stone Age times would have been mounted within a wooden handle and possibly held in place firmly with rudimentary string; however, no remains have ever been found as the wood decays whereas the flint does not. Axe heads have been found of varying sizes depending on the job they would have been intended for, as well as the size of the original stone material available to the flint-knapper at the time.

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3) Biface



This tool is called a biface because it has been flaked on both faces of the rock. It is made from quartzite rock, which is hard and durable. A tool very similar to this was found at Charlie Lake cave (British Columbia, Canada) and dates back to around 10,500 years ago. This type of tool is highly versatile and could have been used for chopping, skinning animals, cutting or crushing foods for preparation and many other tasks.

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4) Stone Borer/Drill



Borers were small pieces of flint made into small stone tools for piercing holes. It is believed from their size and shape that they would have been used mostly for intricate work, making holes in clothing and footwear. The example in this pack has been shaped to demonstrate the sharpness and effectiveness of such a tool. In the UK, evidence Stone Age borers have been found near Swaffham, Norfolk dating back to c.3,000 B.C.

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5) Dagger



The replica dagger in this pack is based on daggers and spear heads dating back to 400,000 B.C. It may have been used as a standalone tool, however, it's likely to have formed the point of a spear, to be used as a hunting tool. The Dagger would have been fixed to a wooden poke with bindings made of animal sinew, leather strips or vegetable matter to hold it firm.

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Teaching Ideas

- 1) Why not place an artefact on each of the tables in your class and without telling the children anything about them, ask them to describe the artefact and what they think it was used for. Encourage discussion with the class and make it clear there is no definitive correct answer, as long as each child can justify their view. This will allow the children to understand different viewpoints and will teach them to practice giving reasoned and justifiable opinions.

Key questions when looking at describing an artefact:

- What does it look, feel, smell and sound like?
 - How big is it?
 - What shape is it?
 - What colour is it?
 - How heavy is it?
 - Does it have any marks that show us how it was made, used and cared for?
 - What is it made of?
 - Is it mass-produced or unique?
 - Is it complete or part of an object?
 - Is it in good condition or worn/used?
 - Has it been altered, adapted, repaired or changed?
- 2) Develop numeracy skills by getting the children to measure the artefacts and look for any lines of symmetry. Get them to weigh each piece and compare and contrast each other
 - 3) Get the children to research what the artefacts are made from. Where is this type of material found in the UK? Get the children to discuss why some types of rock would have been better for making tools than others – what properties make the type of rock used the most suitable?
 - 4) You could bury the artefacts in sand and create a controlled environment whereby your class become archaeologists. Make it clear the artefacts are fragile and need to be excavated with care. Using plastic pallet knives and thick paint brushes is ideal for this activity. Section up the dig in to square areas so each child or group can work on one area. When they have found their artefact get them to fill out an 'artefact report' where they draw the artefact and describe its features and likely uses. At the end of the activity get each child, or a child from each group, to tell the rest of the class what they found and what they think the artefact is for. To finish, each child or group can place there artefact on a display area and label it so your class can see what they have discovered, examined and recorded.

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